

In Memoriam:
Jack Wm. Hodges
1947–2010
1975 Editor-in-Chief
San Diego Law Review



IN REMEMBRANCE

We are honored to share this tribute of Jack Wm. Hodges. Mr. Hodges passed away June 8, 2010. He was a strong champion of University of San Diego School of Law, loved and promoted the camaraderie of his classmates, found reward in his chosen profession of tax law, and was immensely proud of his children. He laughed easily and appreciated his friends, the history he witnessed, and his life. He was thoughtful of others and was always the first to send thanks, congratulations, and recognition. He was a good man and will not be forgotten.

The University of San Diego School of Law celebrated Mr. Hodges's life and relationship with the school by honoring him with the 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award at a banquet surrounded by classmates, board members, and colleagues. Upon being notified of the Distinguished Alumni Award, Jack was heard to say, "I'm as shocked as everyone else. Jeese . . . if I'd known I were to be honored in this way, I would have actually tried to do something with my life after USD!"

Mr. Hodges received his J.D. in 1975 from the University of San Diego School of Law, where he was editor-in-chief of the *San Diego Law Review*. He was awarded a B.A. in prelegal studies from the University of Michigan and an LL.M. in taxation from New York University Law School.

Mr. Hodges was an experienced attorney in corporate state and local taxation (SALT), and a nationally recognized expert in multistate taxation of banks and financial institutions. He authored numerous articles and was a frequent lecturer. He was executive director of SALT in the national tax office of Grant Thornton LLP, where he maintained a private tax law practice in San Francisco.

Mr. Hodges is the former vice president and SALT counsel for Wells Fargo & Company. He then served as partner and SALT practice leader at Ernst & Young LLP and Arthur Andersen LLP. Jack was Associate Dean at Golden Gate University Graduate School of Taxation, where he also served as an adjunct professor of tax law and was chair and vice chair of several American Bar Association tax committees. During the Vietnam War, he was awarded a Western Pacific Fleet Letter of Commendation for war zone service. He served over twenty years on the board of Support for Families of Children with Disabilities, a San Francisco charitable organization.

Mr. Hodges served many years as a member of the USD Law Alumni Association Board of Directors and chaired his twenty-fifth and thirtieth class reunion celebrations. He was instrumental in creating and funding the "Class of 1975 Professorship," the largest class gift in the law

school's history. In addition, he was a member of the Maudsley Fellows Society, the law school's leadership gift society.

Former classmates pay him tribute:

SUSANNE STANFORD

There was such a sweetness and gentleness that Jack radiated. He never was too rushed to focus on his friendship with each of us, and he always made each of us feel like a very special person in his life. And, I suspect we collectively were. Jack had a genuine love of his many friends from the class of 1975, and I think it is fair to say he considered us his extended family. These deep personal connections, his interest in scholarship, and his real gratitude for the opportunity to become a lawyer combined to inspire Jack to be our class leader in our postgraduation days. He was the propelling force behind our excellent reunions and the class professorship chair. I will fondly remember the great time Jack had at our thirtieth. He sent me photos he took at the reunion that he thought would interest me, a gesture I found very thoughtful. The last time I saw Jack was at the luncheon at which he received the Distinguished Alumni Award. He was so very humbled and modest about his accomplishments—qualities that set him apart from many of us in our class! It was Jack's "day in the sun," and he shined with class and grace. May we each receive a tiny piece of Jack's sweetness, gentleness, humility, modesty, thoughtfulness, and capacity for love and friendship, and thus Jack will have enriched all of our lives forever.

JOHN MURPHY

Jack was a unique person and not easy to characterize. During law school, my dealings with Jack were largely related to *Law Review* matters. Compared to many of our contemporaries, and certainly, myself at that time, Jack was mature, polite, and thoughtful. It is easy to understand why he had been chosen to serve as the editor-in-chief of the *San Diego Law Review*.

I got to know Jack much better when I left the SEC in 1979 and moved to San Francisco. Over the next thirty years, I had the opportunity to socialize and interact with Jack on a number of occasions. As I got to better know Jack, I came to see him as a much more nuanced person

with a wide range of interests. In particular, I remember that Jack always carefully listened and cared about what you were saying to him. In short, Jack was a true gentleman who had a good heart and was naturally inclined to lend a helping hand.

Shortly before the class of 1975 twenty-fifth reunion, Dean Dan Rodriquez asked Jack to head up the reunion. Happily, Jack accepted this request and organized the reunion, as well as the creation of the class of 1975 endowment gift. In 2005, he again oversaw our thirtieth reunion. Jack tirelessly worked on both the twenty-fifth and thirtieth reunions. He made many of us realize that the class of 1975 was a special group of people and persuaded many of us to give back to the University of San Diego School of Law. None of this would have occurred without Jack Hodges's dedication and involvement. We are all going to miss him.

STEVE TANNER

I am very sad to hear of Jack's passing. To me, he was the conscience of the truly exceptional class of 1975. My memories of Jack are many, but some that stand out include the following: Jack in law school wearing those ridiculous jean shorts; his dedication to our reunions and all of us being together; his putting up with Hunsicker's and my messing around when we were supposed to be focusing on the next issue of the *San Diego Law Review*; his visits to New York City, when Christine and I would go in to visit him; when he called me "Steverino" so affectionately; and when he would laugh so mightily at my stupid comments and antics.

Jack was a dedicated and determined guy, and he was a treasure to our class. He worked tirelessly to keep us together and expended great energy to leave a legacy. I am proud to have called him my friend and colleague, and to recognize his legacy of devotion for and devotion to his beloved USD Law School and as one of the most recognized and important leaders of our very proud and accomplished class of 1975, including the endowed gift he single handedly inspired.

All I can do is wish him all the best in his new spiritual life.

JIM KRAUSE

Jack was just a bit older than the rest of us because he came to law school after serving in the military. I was impressed that he had it all together—he had rented a dinky little house at the end of Rosecrans in Point Loma and drove a sports car. Now that was the good life!

I got to know him while serving on *Law Review*; he was editor-in-chief. I remember the school was involved with the law of the sea. During the summer before our third year, he asked each of us on *Law Review* whether we could go to Caracas, Venezuela to cover a law of the sea conference. I knew nothing of maritime law but was the only one who could go. Thanks to him, I have great memories of that time.

We renewed our friendship during the twenty-fifth reunion preparation in 2000. There were several of us on the committee. At that time, conference calls were rare indeed, but the committee had regular conference calls—telling jokes, swapping stories, and working out details of the reunion. We had so much fun most of us volunteered again.

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL STREIT

From the start, Jack showed leadership abilities and was kind to everybody with whom he came in contact. A phrase, a cliché now, in its infancy then, described him well—he thought outside the box. No surprise was the professional success that he enjoyed, as well as his personal successes during his lifetime.

He certainly affected all who met him and will be truly missed.

STEVE HUNSICKER

Jack was one of the first individuals I got to know during our first year of law school. We were both Midwesterners—he was a Michigan graduate and I was an Iowa graduate. Therefore, we shared an interest in Big Ten football among other things.

Jack had spent time in the military. Maybe that was why he seemed to me to have more rigorous study habits than most of us. Throughout law school, he voiced an adamant determination to achieve a successful career in San Francisco, a market that was almost impossible to crack in the mid-1970s.

After graduation, Jack completed the rigorous tax LL.M. program at NYU and indeed achieved his goal of a very successful career in San Francisco.

Our class of 1975 always considered itself special—comprised of many exceptional law students and lawyers-to-be. Many of those individuals ended up on the *Law Review*. Jack was chosen to be editor-in-chief. Thanks largely to Jack's leadership, I continue to think that we

produced an extraordinary volume 12, including a symposium issue on class actions that was well received by the legal community.

I think one of the most notable things Jack undertook in the years after school was his effort to jump start alumni giving to the USD Law School. The vehicle for this effort was the formation of the Class of 1975 Professorship, which provides monetary support and recognition for superior work by the academics at USD Law School. I believe this was the first and maybe to date the only such endowment funded by a graduation class from USD Law School.

JACKIE HORTON

Jack's death comes as a great shock. The law school has lost one of its most ardent supporters and the class of 1975 has lost a wonderful friend. Jack will be missed by all of us. I hope his family can find comfort in knowing that Jack was a very special person who made the world a better place.